

## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

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DRAFTED BY: ARA/CEN:MJPLATT

APPROVED BY: ARA/CEN:DLAZAR

S/S - MR. ORTIZ

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL BELIZE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

INFO USCINCSO

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EXDIS MILITARY ADDEE HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, BH, GT, UK, UNGA

SUBJECT: BELIZE DISPUTE

SKMMERY: UK EMBASSY OFFICER WALKER CALLED ON ARA/CEN OCTOBER 6 TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE BRITISH PLANS TO REINFORCE THEIR GARRISON IN BELIZE AND UN CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION ON BELIZE. A MODERATE UK-BELIZE DRAFT MAY BE CIRCULATED IN ABOUT TEN DAYS, BUT WILL BE SUBJECT TO CARIBBEAN AND PERHAPS BELIZEAN PRESSURES TO TOUGHEN THE TERMS. ALTHOUGH NO DECISIONS HAVE BEEN TAKEN, UK DEFENSE MINISTRY IS THINKING OF A TWO-STEP REINFORCEMENT, FIRST SENDING THREE TROOP CARRYING PUMA HELICOPTERS AND EIGHT INFLATABLE BOATS REQUIRING ABOUT FIFTY SUPPORT PERSONNEL TO BELIZE. SECOND WOULD BE AN AIRLIFT OF 150 SOLDIERS WITH EQUIPMENT. WALKER ASKED OUR OPINION AND WE SPECULATED, UNOFFICIALLY, THAT GUATEMALANS WOULD INTERPRET

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THESE MOVES AS A SIGN THAT UN CAUSE LOST. THEY LIKELY

WOULD CASTIGATE UK AT UN AND POSSIBLY MOVE IMMEDIATELY TO INVADE. IN ADDITION, GOG MIGHT USE AS PRETEXT TO REFUSE TO TAKE PART IN ANY FURTHER NEGOTIATION. END SUMMARY.

1. IN OCTOBER 3 MEETING WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS (SEPTTEL) UK MINISTER MORETON PROMISED TO CONSULT WITH U.S. ON TACTICS AND TIMING OF BELIZE RELATED DEVELOPMENTS. WALKER SAID THAT UKUN HAD HAD A SESSION WITH ASSAD SHOMAN AFTERNOON OF OCTOBER 3 IN WHICH SHOMAN HAD PRODUCED AN EXTREMELY TOUGH DRAFT RESOLUTION. UKUN HAD WATERED IT DOWN TO INCLUDE A CALL FOR FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS WITH GUATEMALA. NOW HMG AND BELIZEAN GOVERNMENT HAVE TO APPROVE TEXT. IF APPROVED, UKUN WILL BEGIN CIRCULATING THE RESOLUTION IN ABOUT TEN DAYS, FIRST TO THE CARIBBEANS AND THEN PERHAPS TO THE ASIANS. HOWEVER, PRICE MIGHT REFUSE TO ACCEPT IT AND MAY ATTEMPT TO HAVE CARIBBEANS TOUGHEN THE RESOLUTION DURING DEBATE ON THE FLOOR, O INTRODUCE A SEPARATE ONE OF THEIR OWN. THE BRITISH WILL ATTEMPT TO KEEP WHATEVER RESOLUTION THAT IS PASSED MODERATE IN TONE, BUT WHEN ASKED IF THEY WOULD VOTE FOR A QUOTE TOUGHER UNQUOTE VERSION, IF ONE EMERGED, WALKER WAFFLED AND AVOIDED THE QUESTION.

2. WALKER SAID THEY VIEWED THE POSSIBILITY OF A GUATEMALAN ATTACK, AT LEAST IN THE SHORT RUN, AS DIRECTLY TIED TO UN ACTION. THEIR MINISTRY OF DEFENSE IS WORRIED ABOUT NOT BEING ABLE TO DEFEND AGAINST AN ATTACK AND HAS COME UP WITH A TWO-STAGE REINFORCEMENT PACKAGE THAT INVOLVES FIRST DELIVERY OF THREE TROOP CARRYING PUMA HELICOPTERS (15-16 MAN CAPABILITY) AND EIGHT INFLATABLE BOATS, ALONG WITH FIFTY SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE PEOPLE, FOLLOWED BY A COMPANY SIZED FORCE, ABOUT 150 MEN, SENT TO GARRISON PUNTA GORDA. WALKER ASKED FOR OUR REACTION TO THESE TWO PROPOSALS WHICH WE POINTED OUT WERE OBVIOUSLY LINKED, AS ONE WOULD FOLLOW LOGICALLY FROM THE OTHER. WALKER AGREED.

3. HIS SECOND QUESTION WAS, IF A DECISION IS TAKEN TO REINFORCE, HOW SHOULD IT BE ANNOUNCED? (A) SAY NOTHING  
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AND JUST DO IT; (B) MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT IN LONDON THE SAME DAY THE TROOPS BEING MOVED; OR (C) MAKE THE ANNOUNCEMENT WHILE THE TROOPS ARE MOVING. (IT WILL TAKE TEN DAYS TO COMPLETE THE REINFORCEMENT).

4. IN THE DISCUSSION THAT FOLLOWED, DEPTOFFS EMPHASIZED THEY WERE SPEAKING UNOFFICIALLY; AND COULD NOT ADVISE THE UK ON TROOP DEPLOYMENTS. THE CONVERSATION COVERED

SEVERAL POSSIBLE SCENARIOS, INCLUDING THE STATIONING OF A BRITISH FRIGATE OFF PUNTA GORDA TO FORESTALL ANY ATTACK, AS WELL AS THE TROOP REINFORCEMENT MENTIONED ABOVE. IN GENERAL, AND WE BELIEVE THIS IS THE IMPRESSION

WALKER LEFT WITH, REINFORCEMENT SEEMED TO BE A HIGHER RISK OPTION THAN NON-REINFORCEMENT. THE GUATEMALANS WOULD VIEW IT AS PROOF THE BRITISH DID NOT INTEND TO COMPROMISE AND THEY MIGHT REACT BY EITHER MOVING IMMEDIATELY TO INVADE BEFORE THE REINFORCEMENTS COULD ARRIVE, OR BY USING IT AS PRETEXT TO REFUSE TO TAKE PART IN ANY NEGOTIATIONS THAT MIGHT FOLLOW PASSAGE OF A MODERATE RESOLUTION. WALKER EMPHASIZED THAT NO DECISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE AND THE UK MIGHT DECIDE TO SEND JUST THE EQUIPMENT WITHOUT THE MEN, SEND BOTH, OR NOTHING AT ALL.

5. DEPTOFFS THEN TOLD WALKER THAT THE C-47 PURCHASE IS BEING CANCELLED BY THE GUATEMALANS AND THE DELIVERY OF ARAVAS WAS TO BE SPACED OUT AT ONE A MONTH, SO THERE WILL BE NO GREAT IMPROVEMENT IN GUATEMALAN AIRLIFT CAPABILITY OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS.

6. WALKER ASKED THAT WE HOLD THE INFORMATION ABOUT REINFORCEMENT CLOSELY. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

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